

## Claims

- [c1] An automated document template creation method, comprising:
- inputting data of an existing document that contains a visual design to input an image;
  - decomposing the image into at least one object using at least one image processing technique;
  - determining at least one design attribute of the at least one object; and
  - synthesizing a document template containing the at least one design attribute.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, wherein inputting data of the existing document comprises scanning the existing document.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, wherein decomposing the image into at least one object comprises using an image segmentation technique.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, wherein decomposing the image into at least one object comprises using an image classification technique.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, wherein decomposing the image into at least one object comprises using an optical character recognition technique.
- [c6] The method of claim 1, wherein decomposing the image into at least one object comprises decomposing the image into at least one spatial characteristic.
- [c7] The method of claim 6, wherein decomposing the image into at least one spatial characteristic comprises decomposing the image into at least one of text regions, pictorials and line art.
- [c8] The method of claim 6, wherein decomposing the image into at least one object further comprises decomposing the image into at least one color theme.
- [c9] The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one design attribute of the at least one object comprises using an optical character recognition technique.
- [c10] The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one design attribute of the at least one object comprises determining a page layout.

[c11] The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one design attribute of the at least one object comprises determining font information.

[c12] An automated document template creation system, comprising:  
an input device that receives data of an existing document containing a representative visual design to obtain an image;  
an image processor that decomposes the image into at least one object and determines at least one design attribute of the at least one object;  
and  
a template creator that synthesizes a document template containing the at least one design attribute.

[c13] The system of claim 12, wherein the input device comprises a scanner that scans the existing document.

[c14] The system of claim 12, further comprising a data storage device that stores the document template.